

Research and Special Programs Administration

DEC 1 - 2000

400 Seventh St., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20590

Reference No. 98-0365

Mr. Warren G. Purdy Senior Division Agronomist Western Farm Service 509 West Weber Avenue, Suite 201 Stockton, CA 95203

Dear Mr. Purdy:

This is in response to your letters and telephone conversations with me and Ms. Eileen Edmonson of my staff concerning whether the shipment of a fertilizer, identified as "Ammonium nitrate, 5.1, UN 1942, PG III," "Potassium nitrate, 5.1, UN 1486, PG III," or "Sodium nitrate, 5.1, UN 1498, PG III," in a rear-end loaded freight container is authorized under 49 CFR 173.240. We apologize for the delay in response and any misunderstanding or inconvenience this may have caused.

Specifically, you asked whether your 24-foot, rear-end loaded freight container would satisfy the requirement of a sift-proof container. You state that dunnage is placed across the rear end of the freight container, forming a rear wall. The freight container is then lined on the bottom and all sides, up to a height of 7 feet, with 4-ml thick clear polyethylene. The fertilizer is loaded in loose bulk form, using a troughing conveyor, into the enclosed area. After loading is completed, you stated the plastic liner is secured over the top of the fertilizer, and additional dunnage and liner is secured over the upper portion of the rear wall to prevent the release of any contents. The package, weighing about 21.5 tons, is transported by vessel from California to Hawaii.

Based upon the information you provided, the answer is yes. Your packaging would satisfy the requirements of a sift-proof, non-DOT specification, closed bulk bin under § 173.240(c).

Sincerely,

Hattie L. Mitchell, Chief

Regulatory Review and Reinvention
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards



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**CALIFORNIA VALLEY** 

DIVISION

### FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

	DATE:	10/23/00
	TO:	Eden Edmoson
•	COMPANY:	DOT/HAZHAT
	PHONE NUMB	BER: 207. /366 4481 FAX NUMBER: 3663012.
	FROM:	W.G. "SKIP" PURDY III Division Agronomisi
	CALL:	(209) 547-2635 IF ILLEGIBLE OR INCOMPLETE
	PAGES:	(INCLUDING COVER SHEET)
	Message:	While my old shop teacher, Mr. Hargianes,
		might give me 2 D on the drawings I hope
a bar		they can got this off dood center It there
COMPANY OF THE PARK OF THE PAR	L-garer sch-Off M mar Annania	are any pivostions place call. Thanks for your
PUREGA		efforts as this. ? Solis
. <u>2.000.00</u>	CASH & BANDA W.	env 亞斯
	EP	
E.	E Brigh	•
Y.C.	E KINN HOLES	
Transfi	ra Corporation	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
w.	C. "Salo" Purpy II	

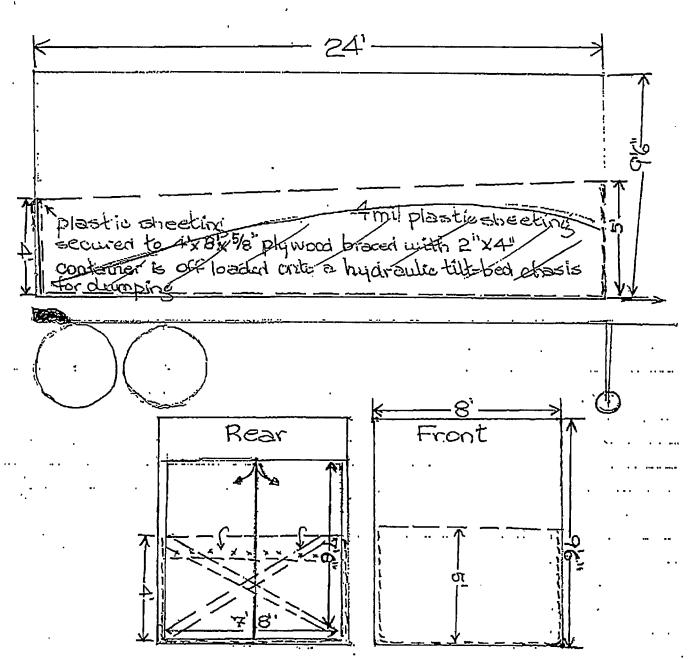
# CONTAINER EQUIPMENT

DRY CONTAINERS		Control of the second	de 1845 de la come de la Française de la come	
24' Dry Standard	Inside Length: Inside Width: Inside Height: Door Opening: Empty Weight: Cubic Capacity:	23' 6" 7'9" 7'10" 7'8"W x 7'6" 1 1 5930 lbs. 1422 ft.	Outside Length: Outside Width: Outside Height	24' 8' 9' <i>६</i> "
24' Dry High-Cube	Inside Length: Inside Width: Inside Height: Door Opening: Empty Weight; Cubic Capacity:	23' 6" 7' 9" 8' 10" 7' 8"W x 8' 6"H 6750 lbs, 1598 ft.	Outside Length: Outside Width: Outside Height:	24' 6' 9' 6"
40' Dry Standard	Inside Length: Inside Width: Inside Helght: Door Opening: Empty Weight: Cubic Capacity;	39' 6" 7' 9" 7' 10" 7' 8"W x 7' 6"H 8490 lbs. 2387 ft.	Outside Length: Outside Width: Outside Height:	40' 8' 8' 6"

Bulk oxidizer shipment in "sift proof container"

Verbal /HAZHAT

24' Dry standard container furnished by Matson for Havaiian service. Makerials are fortilized, potassium nitrate and sodium nitrate. Bulk densities average 74-lbs/cubio foot. Normal loading tends to place majority of cargo in the forward half to two thirds of the container. Containers are rated at 43,500 lbs net. Average cargo runs around 42,000 lbs. per container.



plastic sheeting is placed on the interior on the bottom, sides and fronk then over the plywood sheeking used to cover the rear doors. Plastic is stapled to plywood lening the container.

#### Edmonson, Eileen

From: Mitchell, Hattie

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2000 7:57 AM Kirkpatrick, Ronald; Edmonson, Eileen

Cc: Hochman, Charles

Subject: RE: Interpretation for Western Farm Service

I overlooked your email earlier. The package is a closed-top freight container with rear, double doors that open from the center. A barrier wall is constructed with dunnage and lining, a few feet inward from the rear doors. The top portion remains open until the container is filled, then the upper portion is filled in with more dunnage and lining, forming a complete inner wall at the rear of the freight container.

----Original Message----From: Kirkpatrick, Ronald

Sent: Friday, October 13, 2000 1:47 PM

To: Edmonson, Eileen

Cc: Hochman, Charles; Mitchell, Hattie

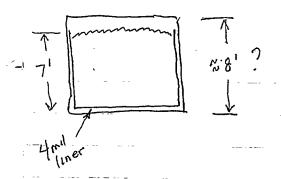
Subject: Interpretation for Western Farm Service

Having reviewed your response to Mr. Purdy, DHM-22 has no objection. Your efforts to extract more detail from Purdy evidently were only grudgingly addressed. In his Dec. 1, 1998 letter, Purdy writes:

"The fertilizer is then loaded in loose bulk form by troughing conveyor and securing sheeting over this." Your letter does not say the same thing. As I understand your language, the top of the load is not covered.

I've signed off on this, but I recommend you sort out the dilemma described above before proceeding further.

# SEE e-wall 10/13



Purby's 12/1/98 ltr. "... and securing sheeting over this."

Sounds like sheeting (somehow) is placed over the top of the material. BSPA response does not say this.

4:05 pm 10/16/00 Stap Purkly, Warran Dunnesse only inback. Andresome times lined of word plostic pulled over top + toped or stapled

Requester

Warren G. Purdy, III

Company

**Western Farm Service** 

Phone

209-547-2650

Date Received: 12/8/98

**Tracking Number: 98-0365** 

١

Revision Date: 10/4/2000

12/8/98 Date Assigned

Date of Letter 12/1/98

**Staff** 

Edmonson

First Draft Due: 12/29/98

Section

173.240

First Draft Date: 5/5/2000

Subject

**Packaging General** 

Concurrence

**Status** 

CLOSED

Status Date

Sign Date

2/18/2000

Signor

HBP X

**Copy to Docket** 

Copy to DHM-60

Comment

re: is a freight cont. lined w/ 4ml poly. & filled w/ fertilizer & dunnage sift-proof? 12/8/00 Lft. voice mail mess. rqst. picture or schematic of pkg. 3/3/00 lnc. to Mitchell for review. (Ltrs. gathered for branch project. Ltr. rtnd. late 1999.) 2/17/00 Inc. to Mitchell for review. 2/18/00 HLMitchell - teleph, left mess. Use of polyetherlene sheeting may be used as a liner to make bulk container sift- proof. Sheeting must be properly secured to prevent any leakage. If no resp. w/in one week, ltr. will be closed. 5/1/00 Recv'd 4/24/00 ltr. from Mr. Purdy rqstng response. 5/2/00 Response drafted. Called Mr. Purdy w/ questions abt. material & container. 5/4/00 Spoke w/ Mr. Purdv & recv'd addit. info. abt. pkg. 5/5/00 Draft to Mitchell. 09/28/00 HLM spoke

## Interpretation Letters

Requester V
Company V

Warren G. Purdy, III

**Western Farm Service** 

Phone

209-547-2650

Date Received: 12/8/98

**Tracking Number: 98-0365** 

Revision Date: 5/5/2000

Date Assigned 12/8/98 Date of Letter 12/1/98 Edmonson **Staff** First Draft Due: 12/29/98 Section 173,240 First Draft Date: 5/5/2000 Packaging General Subject Concurrence CLOSED **Status** Status Date Sign Date 2/18/2000 Signor

HBP X

Copy to Docket

Copy to DHM-60

Comment

re: is a freight cont. lined w/ 4ml poly. & filled w/ fertilizer & dunnage sift-proof? 2/17/00 Inc. to Mitchell for review.

2/18 HLMitchell - teleph, left message. Use of polyetherlene sheeting may be used as a liner to make bulk container sift- proof. Sheeting must be properly secured to prevent any leakage.

5/1/00 Recv'd 4/24/00 ltr. from Mr. Purdy rqstng response. 5/2/00 Response drafted. Called Mr. Purdy w/ questions abt. material & container. 5/4/00 Spoke w/ Mr. Purdy & recv'd addit. info. abt. pkg. 5/5/00 Draft to Mitchell.

5/4/00 Spole W/ Pr. Perde : Pringht container

- Most Duringal is inside Vener + is departely wrapped

- Most Duringal is inside Vener + is departely wrapped

- Member of my plattic; it's placed on to the sides of each forbalance

- Separate piece of durinage Converse back doors, it's lined in the

- He is a regular pear end greent con tainer

- It's end loaded with a Conveyer belt deep into greeget

- loo container is filled if the conveyer

- the load is either pure sodium whate polassium

mitrate or ammonium netrate. Out meet the

hazard class Dires ion 5.1 for an oxizidizer

(one Chemical per Shipment)

G. Edmonin

	interpreta	don Letters	Developed By Booz• Allen & Hamilton Inc.	
Requester W	larren G. Purdy, III		Date Received: 12/8/98	
Company W	<i>l</i> estern Farm Service		Tracking Number: 98-0365	
Phone 2	09-547-2650		Revision Date: 2/18/2000	
Date Assigned	12/8/98	Date of Letter 12/1/98	3	-
Staff	Mack 12	First Draft Due: 12/29/9	98	
Section	173.240	First Draft Date:	***************************************	
Subject	Packaging General			
Concurrence		Days to Sign 437		
Status	CLOSED	Status Date	***************************************	
ign/Close Date	2/18/2000	Signor		en G. Pu
HBPX	Copy to Docket	Copy to DHM-60		estern Fa ce:Mack
Comment	3/3/99 Inc. to Mitche	II. for review.		•
	2/18 HLMitchell - te	leph, left message.		•
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	proof. Sheeting mus	st be properly secured to	is a liner to make bulk container sift- prevent any leakage.	,
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		(-)(1)	<i>(</i>	

**Interpretation Letters** 

Requester Warren G. Purdy, III Date Received: 12/8/98 Company Western Farm Service Tracking Number: 98-0365 **Phone** 209-547-2650 Revision Date: 12/8/98 12/8/98 Date Assigned Date of Letter 12/1/98 **Staff** Mack First Draft Due: 12/29/98 Section 173.240 **First Draft Date:** Subject Packaging General Concurrence **Status** Status Date Sign Date Signor HBP Copy to Docket Copy to DHM-60

Comment

12/8 Called left voice mail. Need picture or schematic of design of plan to plan to plan to semitable of the engineers. He would be in till tell 88.

2/18 called left messege.

termtehell within a response within a week, matter will be closed.



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April 24, 2000

United States Department of Transportation RSPA/Office of Hazardous Materials Standards 400 7<sup>th</sup> Street S.W. Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Sirs:

Your attention is directed to our inquiries of December 1, 1998, November 2, 1999 and various phone calls over the past five months in which we have been assured that a decision was "on the way."

Sincerely,

W. G. Purdy, III

Senior Division Agronomist

dh

Encl.



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November 2, 1999

United States Department of Transportation RSPA/Office of Hazardous Materials Standards 400 7<sup>th</sup> Street S.W. Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Sirs:

Your attention is directed to our inquiry of December 1, 1998 (copy enclosed) and Matson's Freight Tariff 14-F. We and our Hawaiian customers would appreciate the resolution of this matter as our inability to deliver materials in bulk under the posted tariff is costing businesses in Hawaii \$48.00-50.00 a ton in additional expenses.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

W. G. Purdy, III

Senior Division Agronomist

dh

Encl.



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December 1, 1998

United States Dept. of Transportation RSPA/Office of Hazardous Materials Standards 400 7<sup>th</sup> Street S.W. Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Sirs:

In conversation with Lee Wilson of the HAZMAT office in Ontario, CA he suggested that I describe my problem to you and seek your guidance on the matter.

We have been shipping sodium nitrate and potassium nitrate to Hawaii in Matson Navigation Company's twenty-four foot containers for the past year. These fertilizers are, of course, oxidizing agents and are appropriately labeled and marked. We have been lining the containers with four mil clear polyethylene sheeting to a height of approximately seven feet, placing dunnage across the rear of the container and securing the sheeting over this. The fertilizer is then loaded in loose bulk form by troughing conveyor and securing sheeting over this. Average loaded weights are around 21.5 tons.

Our judgment was that this met the definition under 173.240 for a "sift proof" container. This has recently come under question and the Coast Guard has not wanted to pass judgment and suggested I ask HAZMAT, and hence, the request to you for clarification.

We've routinely handled these materials by rail and truck and received shipments in ocean going bulk carriers and simply wonder whether the thought of containerizing smaller bulk shipments on ocean going vessels simply hasn't been put down on paper.

Any suggestions or clarification would be greatly appreciated.

Hanne J. Pundy. III (bydh)

Sincerely,

Warren G. Purdy, III Division Agronomist

Encl: Matson Tariff 14-F

PO.1c Road Mar 0-444-1381 USCG 1JEL 415-444-1381 Mar

MATSON NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC.			<b> </b>	ORIGINAL 22nd Ru		PAGE 107
FREIGHT TARIFF 14-F, FM:-F NO. 31			<b>-</b>	CANCELS		PAGE
FREIGHT TARIEF 14-F, FALTE NO. 25		•	_ F		vised	107
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					EFFECTIVE I	
TACK: HAVAIT PORTS			. [	Pabru	ary 3, 199	17
PACIFIC COAST PORTS HADALI FORTS				CORREC	пон но.	2343
FECTION 3 - COMMODITY RATES IN DOLLARS PER CONTAINER [Except as otherwise provided]	24D ] 24F ]	24HD .	40D	40r	40T	ITEX
ABRIC, rolled or flat wire reinforcing ENCING, steel chain link in rolls or flat sections ENCZ POSTS, steel, including fittings	2295	2552	3171	3125	<b>4356</b>	1145 . [8]
ANS, oscillating [1] Rate applies only in 2(D.	2213 [1]	2500	3745	j I	1201	1147
FIRTILIZER, WIZ: Kelp	2021	2027	2021	1	2028	1113
FERTILIZERS, in bulk in containers, viz.:  Ammonium mitrate or Ammonium phosphate  Calcium silicate, with or without iron  Mitrogen phosphate potassium  Potash, with or without magnesium  Potassium Nitrate & Sodium Mitrate  Triple Superphosphate  Urea  Acmonium Sulfate  [1] Rate also applies on ammonium phosphate solution in  shipper-furnished portable tank units loaded by shipper  into 24-foot containers. Rate includes  return of ampty portable tank unit to origin CY.  [2] Nate also applies on ammonium phosphate solution in  shipper-furnished tank containers not exceeding 24 feet in external length.  [3] Nate applies only in 24D.	[2] [3] 1304 -			مين مين فين مين أمن أيم مين أيم مين أيم أيم أيم أيم أيم أيم أيم ومن مين مين ليم مين أيم أيم فين فيز		1119
DOLCHITE, Calcined  FERTILIZER, HOS  GYPSUM, IAW -  PHOSPHATE ROCK, CRUSHED, in Dags  POTASSIUM NITRATE OR SODIUM NITRATE, in Dags  WORM CASTING and LIQUID ORGANIC MATTER MIXTURES  ZINC SULFATE (fertilizer grade)	2027       	2027	1 225	6   3362           	1 2256 1 1 1 1	1130
NOTE 1: Insecticides, Fungicides, Insect Repellents, Vermis Exterminators and Tree or Head Killing Compounds, described in Item 232 may be loaded to a straight shipment moving under this Item provided the weight thereof does not exceed ten percent of the total weight of the cargo in a container.						
FILTERS, Mir	216	6 27	13 41	70 11	08 467	9 3151 [X]

For explanation of abbreviations and reference marks, see Page



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\$ 173.240

December 1, 1998

United States Dept. of Transportation RSPA/Office of Hazardous Materials Standards 400 7<sup>th</sup> Street S.W. Washington, D.C. 20590

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Any suggestions or clarification would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Warren G. Purdy, III (by dh)
Warren G. Purdy, III
Division Agronomist

Encl: Matson Tariff 14-F

trailer

10-444-1381 USCG 1 JEL: 415-444-1381 Mar

MATSON NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC	•		<b>-</b>	22nd R	REVISED PV13ed	PAGE 107
ļ.				CANCELS		PAGE
FREIGHT TARIFF 14-F, FHC-F NO. 34			<b> </b>	21at R		PAGE 107
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70:			<b>-</b>	Pahen	EFFECTIVE D	
ACM: PACIFIC COAST PORTS HANAII PORTS			-	14010	7 -1 737	, <del> </del>
				CORREC	тон но.	2313
SECTION 3 - CONTODITY RATES IN DOLLARS PER CONTAINER [ [Except as otherwise provided] ]	24D   24E	25HD	40D	40F	40HD   40T	ITEH
ABRIC, rolled or flat wire reinforcing ENCING, steel chain link in rolls or flat sections ENCE POSTS, steel, including fittings	2295	2552	3003	3025	4356	1145 (R)
TANS, oscillating [1] Rate applies only in 24D.	2213 [1]	2500	3745		4201	1147
FERTILIZER, wiz: Kelp	2027	2027	2020	i	2020	1148
Ammonium nitrate or Ammonium phosphate Calcium silicate, with or without iron Nitrogen phosphate potassium Potash, with or without, magnesium Potassium Nitrate & Sobium Nitrate Triple Superphosphate Urea Ammonium Sulfate  [1] Rate also applies on ammonium phosphate solution in shipper-furnished portable tank units loaded by shipper into 24-foot containers. Rate includes return of empty portable tank unit to origin CY.  [2] Rate also applies on ammonium phosphate solution in shipper-furnished tank containers not exceeding 24 feet in external length.  [3] Rate applies only in 24D.	[2] [3] 1304 - (1) 1457 -					3119
DOLOMITE, calcined FERTILIZER, NOS GYFSUM, NAW - PHOSPHATE ROCK, crushed, in Dags PHOSPHATE ROCK, crushed, in Dags WORM CASTING and LIQUID ORGANIC HATTER HIXTURES ZINC SULFATE (fertilizer grado)  NOTE 1: Insecticides, Fungicides, Insect Repellents, Vermin Exterminators and Tree or Heed Killing Coopounds, described in Item 232 may be loaded to a straight shipment moving under this item provided the weight thereof does not exceed ten percent of the total weight of the cargo in a container.	2027	2027		3342	2256	1150
FILTERS, air	2166	2783	417	0 110	4679	1151 (N)

For explanation of abbreviations and reference marks, see Page

TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION RECORD

Specialist Placing Call: Eileen Edmonson	ROUTING		
Date of Call: May 4, 2000	SYMBOL	INT	
Person(s) Contacted: Warren G. Purdy, III, Division Agronomist, Western Farm Service, 509 West Weber Avenue, Suite 201, Stockton, CA 95203, (209) 547-2650, (209) 464-4652			
Regarding: Can loose fertilizer be loaded in a polyethylene-lined freight container and meet the requirement of a sift-proof container under § 173.240?			
Date of Incoming Letters: December 1, 1998; November 2, 1999; and April 24, 2000.			
Specific Subject (including section #'s and key words): The Coast Guard has questioned whether or not their container meets the definition of a sift-proof container. Mr. Purdy would like the answer in writing.			

Summary: 12/8/98 I left a voice mail message for Mr. Purdy requesting a picture or schematic of the design of his package to show to the engineers. His message said he won't be in until 12/11/98. 3/3/99 Ms. Mitchell took the letter to review it. (Letters gathered for branch letter writing project. Letter returned to me in late 1999.) 2/17/00 Ms. Mitchell took the letter to review it. 2/18/00 Ms. Mitchell left Mr. Purdy a message that polyethylene sheeting may be used as a liner to make bulk containers sift-proof, but the sheeting must be properly secured to prevent any leakage. She stated in her notes if Mr. Purdy does not respond within one week the matter will be closed. 3/00 Mr. Purdy called Ms. Mitchell and requested a letter on "sift-proof." On 5/1/00, I received a letter from Mr. Purdy requesting a written response to his letters. On 5/2/00, I called Mr. Purdy with questions about the hazardous material and the container, and drafted a response. On 5/4/00, I spoke with Mr. Purdy and received additional information about the packaging. Mr. Purdy described his container as meeting the following conditions -

- this is a regular rear-end freight container
- the freight container is lined on the bottom & sides with 4 ml plastic
- dunnage, separately wrapped in 4 ml plastic, is placed on the inside of the liner in the front and sides of the freight container to help balance the container during loading and unloading
- the container is then end loaded with loose fertilizer on a conveyor belt. Only one chemical is sent per shipment. The conveyor belt is placed deep within the freight container and after loading begins is backed out as the container is filled.
- when the container is filled the plastic is sealed
- a separate piece of dunnage, also wrapped in the 4 ml plastic, is then placed between the sealed fertilizer and the rear door. Then the rear door is closed.

On 5/5/00, I redrafted the response saying the package met the definition of a sift-proof container and gave it to Ms. Mitchell for review. On 9/28/00, Ms. Mitchell spoke with Mr. Purdy and said he described the package differently. Ms. Mitchell returned the letter to me with edits.

Comments for Further Action: Review Ms. Mitchell's edits for any typographical errors. Forward the letter to Ms. Drakeford to prepare it in final form.

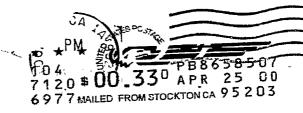
Specialist Signature:

Date: 10/4/00

Eden Edmonson



509 West Weber Ave., Suite 201 Stockton, CA 95203



United States Department of Transportation RSPA/Office of Hazardous Materials Standards 400 7th Street S.W. Washington, D.C. 20590

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